ROYALS HAVE NO CENTER FIELDERS; CHASERS HAVE ONLY CENTER FIELDERS. SPORTS

Omaha World-Herald

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**'ROE V. WADE HANGS IN THE BALANCE'**

# Abortion foes see Kennedy retirement as a gift

## Nebraska Right to Life leader praises Trump's list of possible nominees

By Joseph Morton
*WORLD-HERALD BUREAU*

WASHINGTON — Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement announcement this week was an answer to prayers for abortion rights opponents hoping to see the landmark Roe v. Wade decision overturned.

Nebraska Right to Life executive director Julie Schmit-Albin was in Kansas City at the national group's convention, where she said attendees were fired up about the news.

"Back during the 2016 election, we said Roe v. Wade hangs in the balance because of that — because we knew the next president could have the potential of nominating several future justices," Schmit-Albin said. "So now we're in that moment. Thankfully we're in that moment."

Schmit-Albin said she expects a hard-fought confirmation battle and said advocates on her side of the issue will do everything they can to help the cause.

And she praised President Donald Trump for his previous release of a list of potential nominees, a list vetted by groups opposed to abortion rights.

"This is the most pro-life president we've ever had," Schmit-Albin said. "We're in a different era."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., went straight to the abortion issue in a Thursday floor speech about the nomination.

Schumer said it's virtually certain that the president's nominee

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REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

**2018 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP**

# OREGON STATEMENT

The College World Series ended with a pile of Beavers Thursday night. Oregon State freshman pitcher Kevin Abel threw a two-hit shutout and his catcher, sophomore Adley Rutschman, had three hits to set the single-CWS record with 17 as the Beavers cruised past Arkansas 5-0. Oregon State had been one strike from elimination a night earlier, before a foul popup eluded three Arkansas fielders, setting the stage for a game-winning rally and Thursday's dominating performance. **Story in Sports**

**EXPANSION VIA BALLOT**

# Medicaid petition is on track, backers say

## Organizers say they'll have the required signatures by the deadline next week

By Martha Stoddard
*WORLD-HERALD BUREAU*

LINCOLN — Backers of a Medicaid expansion petition drive expressed confidence Thursday that they will get the proposal before Nebraska voters this fall.

To make the November ballot, the organizers must turn in about 85,000 valid signatures of registered voters by next Thursday. The total must include the signatures of 5 percent of registered voters from at least 38 counties.

"We are right on target," said Meg Mandy, campaign manager for Insure the Good Life. "We have the number of signatures we need. It's just getting the counties."

She said about 100 people a day are working to gather signatures from places as far-flung as Tryon, Spalding, South Sioux City, Santee and Omaha. The effort includes a mix of volunteer and paid circulators.

The group plans to continue collecting signatures through Independence Day on Wednesday, when circulators can reach large numbers of people at holiday events, Mandy said. Signatures will be submitted to the Secretary of State's office for verification the following day.

Insure the Good Life is pushing a proposed state law that would extend Medicaid coverage to about 90,000 low-income Nebraskans.

The proposal would cover single adults and couples without minor children, who cannot qualify for Medicaid now, and would cover parents and disabled people at higher income levels than allowed currently.

People making up to 138 percent of the poverty level — $16,753 for a single person or $34,638 for a family of four — could get coverage under the plan.

Similar expansion proposals have failed in the Nebraska Legislature six years in a row, in the face of stiff opposition from Gov. Pete Ricketts and, before him, Gov. Dave Heineman.

The two Republican governors argued that expansion would be unaffordable and would favor able-bodied Nebraskans over the vulnerable citizens currently cov-

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA**

# Regents agree with tuition, fee hikes

## Board applauds measures to cut costs, but midyear increase is still possible

By Rick Ruggles
*WORLD-HERALD BUREAU*

LINCOLN — The cost of going to a University of Nebraska institution for many students will rise anywhere from about $350 to $650 in 2018-19.

Tuition, fees, and room and board are set and, not surprisingly, students and parents will require more money than they needed last year. Tuition in most cases will go up 3.2 percent. But NU has said that if its state money is diminished in midyear, NU President Hank Bounds would jack up tuition further for the second semester.

Bounds said he may meet with Gov. Pete Ricketts in the fall to get a feel for state revenues and budget projections. The timing would enable another tuition increase to take place.

The NU Board of Regents approved the tuition increase Thursday.

"It's not, I guess, that much of an increase," University of Nebraska-Lincoln art student Olivia Hines said of the 3.2 percent hike. Hines worked Thursday afternoon at a convenience shop in the East Campus Nebraska Union.

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# Newspaper became 'like a war zone' when gunman opened fire

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — A man armed with smoke grenades and a shotgun attacked journalists at a newspaper in Maryland's capital Thursday, killing five people before police quickly stormed the building and arrested him, police and witnesses said.

Police said the man's rampage at the Capital Gazette followed social media threats directed at the newspaper. Authorities said the man entered the building in a targeted attack and "looked for his victims." He threw smoke grenades and fired a shotgun at his victims, according to William Krampf, the acting police chief of Anne Arundel County.

"This person was prepared today to come in, this person was prepared to shoot people. His intent was to cause harm," Krampf said.

A law enforcement official late Thursday identified the suspect as 38-year-old Jarrod W. Ramos. In

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**'The bug that ate Omaha'**
Plant-chomping beetles are back, but last year's invasion helped gardeners prepare. **Midlands**

**Unlikely sequel is likable**
"Sicario: Day of the Soldado" hits its marks, but not at the level of its predecessor. **Living**

**Lindsay to close local plant**
Company will move its highway barrier operation from Omaha to Lindsay, Neb. **Money, Page 6A**

**Weather**
**High:** 100 **Low:** 77
Mostly sunny
**Details:** 6B

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